

MEETING MINUTES
DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED on September 11, 2006
NEWPORT COAST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Location: Newport Beach Central Library, Friends Room
5:30 p.m., Monday, July 10th, 2006

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Chairman Jim McGee convened the meeting at 5:47 p.m. The following persons were in attendance:
 - Committee members: Jim McGee (Chairman), Gerry Ross (Vice-Chairman), Al Willinger, Jack Butefish, and Council Members Keith Curry and Richard Nichols.
 - Members of the public: Phil Bettencourt, Ali Soleimany, Chris Calacci, Ted Wortrich, about 5 others.
 - City staff: Dave Kiff (Assistant City Manager), Steve Bunting (Fire Marshal), Ron Larson (NB Fire Prevention).
2. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting(s).** The Committee approved the May 1st Minutes unanimously.
3. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items.**
 - Phil Bettencourt asked about the following issues:
 1. **IRWD Construction.** According to Phil, the water line project “seems to be taking forever - and to be understaffed on some days. What do we know about when this will be buttoned up once and for all and our landscape and street fully restored?” McGee further asked if the paving that is place there today is the final job - he said it didn’t look up to standards. Kiff said he (Kiff) assumed that it was in place now and settling, and could be re-done after settling. Kiff said he would get an update from IRWD and Public Works and e-mail it to the Committee.
 2. **Newport Coast Elementary "Rear Entry".** Bettencourt said that “the supplementary retaining wall facing San Joaquin Hills Road is not fully planted - or some of the plant pockets have probably just withered and died. What can do to get this planning complete and the ugly little wall covered as contemplated in the original design?” Kiff said he would have Public Works examine that, since the plant establishment period may not have passed.
 3. **Coast Highway Bus Shelters.** Some months ago (Phil) asked about what could be done to have the same quality shelters that are in use throughout the city instead of “the beer ads we have along (PCH) within our state park. Certainly we can do better.” Kiff explained that the City was preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) regarding bus shelters across the City, and that the NCAC would have a chance to see it and comment upon it.
 4. **Buck Gully Trail.** Bettencourt asked if there was “any news on trail maintenance and the removal of invasives by the Laguna Coast Wilderness Authority?” Kiff explained that the Coastal Greenbelt Authority (CGA) has no money nor authority to do maintenance work in any of its lands. Each landowner is responsible for maintenance. Kiff said that he has

asked the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve Trust ("IRLRT") to propose on the development of an initial Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Gully, but that there is no funding for the RMP as of yet. Kiff suggested that Mr. Nichols or Mr. Curry could ask that this item be brought to Council for consideration and funding.

4. New Business

A. Fire Lane Designations in the Newport Coast (Bunting, Larson). Kiff introduced Newport Beach Fire Marshal Steve Bunting. Bunting introduced NB Fire official Ron Larson (assigned to Fire Prevention). They were at the NCAC meeting to discuss recent actions by the NBFD to enforce the Uniform Fire Code as it relates to Fire Lanes and fire lane designation in Newport Beach, including the Newport Coast.

Kiff prefaced the discussion by saying that he believed that each plan for the Newport Coast's separate communities had a County-approved fire lane designation plan, but that the County of Orange and/or the Orange County Fire Authority - after approving the plans - didn't check to see that they were actually implemented with signage and striping in the communities. As such, Kiff said, "Newport Beach looks like the bad guy, because we have to go in there and apply the plans and the law" to residents who didn't know about either.

Bunting and Larson discussed minimum fire lane road widths - they are:

1. Roads less than 28' - no parking allowed on either side;
2. Roads 28' but less than 36' wide - parking on only one side; and
3. Roads wider than 36' - parking allowed on both sides.

Bunting explained that the parking standards are set forth in the code and in approved Newport Coast plans and must be adhered to. He noted, though, that signage could vary with a hearing and variance before the city's Traffic Affairs Committee (TAC), a committee consisting of the Assistant City Manager, the Traffic Engineer, and the NB PD Captain assigned to the Traffic Division. The TAC did this for the Altezza community previously, allowing signage to be a greater distance apart than spelled out in the plans.

McGee, Willinger, Ross, and others noted the following:

- They would like to see each approved plan as approved by the County, especially the fire lane designations. Bunting and Larson said that they would try to get those to the NCAC after acquiring them from the County. Curry said "it's important to get all the documents and disclose them to everyone..."

- They wondered why other parts of Newport Beach (CDM, Balboa Island, Lido Isle) had parking on either or both sides yet had narrower streets than the Uniform Fire Code speaks to. Bunting replied that “those were approved before the UFC came into being, so we don’t have legal authorization to install the fire lanes. There is no reason to make those same mistakes in your community, where the fire lanes have been appropriately designated.”
- They said that signage and striping were significant costs to each HOA (in the range of \$30K for some) and that “residents shouldn’t have to pay because the developer should have paid for these - so a developer or master builder got off the hook for installing these....” Kiff agreed that it seemed like an unfair situation and said he would look into that.
- They asked for the development of a small task force to discuss the issue outside of the Committee with the City (Kiff, Bunting, Larson, and maybe Traffic Affairs) and report back. The Task Force consists of:
 - Ted Wortrich
 - Chris Calacci
 - Ali Soleimany
 - Jack Butefish
 - Gerry Ross

5. Old Business

A. Issue Updates

- Newport Coast Community Center. Kiff reported that the construction was underway and that a design team (including designer Annie Tutunjian and architect Betsey Dougherty) was working on final exterior selections. McGee, Ross, and Willinger participate in those discussions. McGee said he wanted to bring resulting changes back to the full NCAC, saying that he believes that the Pre-Annexation Agreement directs that action.
- Update from Library Funding Subcommittee. Willinger spoke of a meeting between himself, Kiff, Linda Katsouleas (NB Library Director), and Susan Astarita of NMUSD (and a colleague of Susan’s) regarding a possible library at the NCCC site. Willinger said that prospects didn’t look good for state or local funding, and that Linda K believed that a 5,000 sf library branch would not appropriately serve the community. “She envisioned something 10,000 sf or more,” said Willinger. The NMUSD officials didn’t have any funding to bring to the table and, given that Proposition 81 (Library Bond) on the June 2006 ballot failed, there was little prospect for state funding, either.

Willinger and McGee discussed whether the community at large should be asked - via a mailer - about what it wants to do about a potential library, given that “the annexation documents all discussed a library...” Kiff agreed to

contact a relations firm to talk about a Newport Coast-wide mailer discussing the library and its options, including funding options, and to bring back something at the NCAC's September meeting.

- Road Closure - Pelican Hill South. Kiff reported that the Irvine Company had asked to meet with City staff in the future about the current road closure, with the expectation that the Irvine Company might need a longer-term closure.
- Assessment District Relief. Kiff reported that the relief for Tax Year 2007 was going through the preparation process with Taussig and Associates and that everything seemed to be on track for the link-up with the County Assessor's Tax Roll.

6. **Issues/Action Items for Future Meetings**. The Committee suggested that Kiff place the following issues on the September 11, 2006 (or later) meeting agenda:

- Buck Gully Resource Management Plan
- Newport Coast Elementary Plant Establishment
- Fire Lane Update

7. **Adjourn to Next Meeting**. The Committee adjourned at 7:17 p.m. and set its next regular meeting for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 11th, 2006 at the Newport Coast Elementary's Multi-Purpose Room.

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